

FEBRUARY 1, 1973

AMERICAN PIANISTS CHOSEN FOR TCHAIKOWSKY COMPETITION
(INSERTS IN TAPE LIBRARY)

ANNCR: ONE OF THE MOST PRESTIGIOUS MUSICAL COMPETITIONS IN THE WORLD, IS THE INTERNATIONAL TCHAIKOWSKY COMPETITION. IT IS HELD EVERY FOUR YEARS IN THE SOVIET UNION, DRAWING CONTESTANTS OF MANY NATIONALITIES. AMONG THE AMERICANS WHO WILL BE GOING TO MOSCOW FOR THIS YEAR'S EVENT ARE THREE YOUNG PIANISTS, FINALISTS IN THE FIRST NORTH AMERICAN TCHAIKOWSKY COMPETITION -- A PRELIMINARY ROUND TO SELECT ARTISTS FOR THE MAIN EVENT. THIS COMPETITION WAS HELD RECENTLY IN NEW YORK CITY AND VOA'S SHIRLEY SEALY FILED THIS REPORT.

VOICE: IN 1958, A YOUNG AND LITTLE-KNOWN AMERICAN PIANIST NAMED VAN CLIBURN WON THE FIRST INTERNATIONAL TCHAIKOVSKY COMPETITION IN MOSCOW. THAT HONOR BROUGHT HIM IMMEDIATE FAME AND PRESTIGE-- AND THE MOSCOW COMPETITION GAINED SPECIAL IMPORTANCE FOR YOUNG AMERICAN PIANISTS.

THIS YEAR, FOR THE FIRST TIME, MUSIC STUDENTS IN THE UNITED STATES WERE GIVEN A CHANCE TO COMPETE AGAINST EACH OTHER -- TO WIN A PLACE IN THE MOSCOW COMPETITION. TWENTY-TWO YOUNG PIANISTS ENTERED THE FIRST NORTH AMERICAN INTERNATIONAL TCHAIKOVSKY COMPETITION THAT WAS HELD IN NEW YORK CITY IN LATE JANUARY. THE THREE TOP WINNERS EARNED CASH AWARDS AS WELL AS THEIR AIR FARE TO THE SOVIET UNION. THEY WILL TAKE PART IN THE SIXTH TCHAIKOVSKY COMPETITION IN JUNE 1978... ALONG WITH OTHER YOUNG AMERICAN MUSICIANS WHO WILL HAVE ENTERED THE CONTEST ON THEIR OWN.

VOICE: FIRST PRIZE IN THE AMERICAN EVENT WAS SHARED BY DIANE KACSO,
(CONT'D) TWENTY-FOUR YEARS OLD, WHO WAS BORN IN BRAZIL BUT NOW LIVES
AND STUDIES IN NEW YORK -- AND MICHAEL BLUM, TWENTY-TWO, A
NATIVE OF NEW YORK CITY. SECOND PLACE WENT TO CHARLES
ABRAMOVIC, ALSO TWENTY-TWO OF PITTSBURGH, PENNSYLVANIA.
AFTER THE RESULTS WERE ANNOUNCED, MISS KACSCO AND MISTER
BLUM WERE FEATURED IN A SPECIAL CONCERT AT CARNEGIE HALL---
WHICH GAVE THEM AN OPPORTUNITY TO DISPLAY THEIR TALENTS
BEFORE NEW YORK AUDIENCES AND CRITICS. MISS KACSO PLAYED
THE LISZT PIANO SONATA IN B-MINOR, AND THE MUSIC CRITIC
FOR THE NEW YORK TIMES NOTED THAT SHE TORE INTO THE PIECE
WITH GENUINE FIRE.

THIS IS HOW HER PERFORMANCE SOUNDED IN REHEARSAL.

TAPE: CUT ONE -- MUSIC - EXCERPT FROM LISZT SONATA PLAYED BY
DIANA KACSO -- FADE AT WILL (4:30)

VOICE: BOTH MISS KACSO AND MISTER BLUM ARE CURRENTLY STUDYING AT
NEW YORK'S FAMED JUILLIARD SCHOOL OF MUSIC--AND BOTH HAVE
PREVIOUSLY DONE WELL IN INTERNATIONAL PIANO COMPETITIONS.
MICHAEL BLUM, FOR EXAMPLE, WAS THE HIGHEST RANKING
AMERICAN IN BOTH THE MONTREAL AND THE BUSONI INTERNATIONAL
COMPETITIONS IN NINETEEN-SEVENTY-SIX.

FOR THE FIRST NORTH AMERICAN TCHAIKOVSKY COMPETITION, EACH
OF THE FINALISTS PLAYED TCHAIKOVSKY'S CONCERTO NUMBER ONE
IN B-FLAT MINOR, OPUS TWENTY-THREE---THE SAME PIECE WHICH
IS REQUIRED OF EVERY PIANIST COMPETING IN MOSCOW. MICHAEL
BLUM CHOSE THIS WORK FOR HIS CARNEGIE HALL CONCERT--WHERE
HE WAS ACCOMPANIED BY THE NATIONAL ORCHESTRAL ASSOCIATION,

VOICE: HERE'S A BRIEF SELECTION FROM MICHAEL BLUM'S INTERPRETATION
(CONT'D) OF TCHAIKOVSKY'S CONCERTO NUMBER ONE IN B-FLAT MINOR....

TAPE: CUT TWO -- MUSIC --- EXCERPT FROM TCHAIKOVSKY CONCERTO PLAYED
BY BLUM FADE AT WILL (1 MIN.)

VOICE: THE FIRST TCHAIKOVSKY PIANO COMPETITION IN THE UNITED STATES
WAS SPONSORED BY THE DEPARTMENT OF MUSIC AND MUSIC EDUCATION
AT NEW YORK UNIVERSITY. IT WAS SUGGESTED BY UNIVERSITY
PROFESSOR EUGENE LIST, A DISTINGUISHED PIANIST AND TEACHER
WHO HAS SERVED AS A JUDGE IN THE MOSCOW COMPETITION -- AND
WHO BECAME CHAIRMAN OF THE PANEL OF JUDGES HERE IN NEW YORK.

PROFESSOR LIST SAYS THAT THE PURPOSE OF THIS NEW CONTEST IS
TO GIVE THE YOUNG PIANISTS A CHANCE TO PERFORM UNDER
REGULATIONS AND CIRCUMSTANCES SIMILAR TO THE MOSCOW
COMPETITION. IT IS BELIEVED THAT THE UNITED STATES IS THE
ONLY COUNTRY THAT NOW HAS ITS OWN TCHAIKOVSKY COMPETITION TO
SELECT PIANISTS WHO WILL GO ON TO THE PRESTIGIOUS INTER-
NATIONAL CONTEST IN THE SOVIET UNION.

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BML/RTD